

Committee Members:

I wanted to update you on my conversation with Deb Bookis and JD Head from the Schools regarding their Playspaces proposal. The usual caveats hold so please do not respond or engage in any discussion via email. We will have time to discuss this Thursday evening and JD may be attending our meeting as well.

I met with them yesterday and posed the question to them of what the minimum amount was that they could reasonably do something with, and to have them explain again why a "pilot program" of one site was not reasonable.

Their response was frankly a little surprising but they said they did not want to do just one school, felt it was unfair to the other schools. However, they said they could live with about \$70,000 and with that they would do two sites (three schools, Parker Damon: Merriam/McCarthy Towne and one other to be determined later). They said they would come back next year for the other two schools and by doing three schools now they could show what the playspaces would look like and some information on how they were used by teachers/schools children. While they are concerned about the equity issue that caused them to balk at the pilot idea, they felt this would work as long as it looked promising for funding the other two next year.

They of course would still like the full amount of their request, but they understand the tight money situation this year and felt that this might be a good way to go forward. They hope that they can come back next year for the other two sites and they will be asking for funding from Boxborough CPC for the Blanchard school so in some sense this all works out where they can say they hope to serve three elementary schools this year and then three next year.

I hope this helps everyone's thinking for Thursday evening. See you then.

Peter